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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/811,466	03/20/2001	Masanobu Kanazawa	122.1445	7961

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EXAMINER

GODDARD, BRIAN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2161

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/811,466

Applicant(s)

KANAZAWA, MASANOBU

Examiner

Brian Goddard

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected:
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 21 December 2004.
2. Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13 and 14 are independent claims. In the Amendment filed 21 December 2004, claim 14 was added; and claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 11-13 were amended. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,790,785 to Klug et al.

Referring to claim 1, Klug discloses a membership management method in a membership management system as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management system [Fig. 1] comprising:

at least one apparatus [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104];

a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116]; and

a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein when a user makes an application [Steps 404-408]

for a registration of membership information [User Registration Information] at one of the service provision sites [See Step 404] by using said apparatus, the one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers [Steps 432-436] at least a part of the membership information into the database [148] held by the one of the service provision sites [See column 5, lines 7-12], and when the membership information is not registered [Fig. 4] in a database [144] held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center registers [Step 428 (See Figs. 2-3)] the membership information into [Step 236] the database [144] held by the integrated membership management center, where the membership information comprises a user ID and a password [See Abstract, Summary of the Invention, & Figures 4-8] and the integrated membership management center allows the user to use a same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites [See Abstract and Summary of the Invention, specifically column 2, lines 2-19]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 2, Klug discloses a membership management system as claimed. Again, see Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches "a membership management system [Figure 1] comprising: at least one apparatus [WWW Client Node 108] connected via a network [WWW 104]; a database [148] held by each of a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116]; and a database [144] held by an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100], wherein each service provision site comprises:

a membership registration guidance display unit [registration fill-out forms]
requesting a user to register membership information [See Steps 408-428];

a guide unit guiding the user to obtain from the at least one apparatus [the user submits the registration information] the membership information that has been input from the apparatus based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display unit [See Steps 216-220 and 432];

a requesting unit requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information [See Step 424];

a unit obtaining [See Step 800] from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration [See Figs. 4-6 & 8]; and

a post unit posting to the at least one apparatus a user ID and a password, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center [See Fig. 2B (Steps 240-256)] allowing the user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites [See Claim 1 above]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 3, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

a search unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information [See Step 800];

a unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search [See Steps 236-256];

an adder adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search [See Steps 432-440]; and

a post unit posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site [See Step 432]" as claimed.

Referring to claim 4, Klug discloses the membership management system as claimed. See the discussion regarding claim 2 above for the details of this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches the membership management system according to claim 2, as above, "wherein the membership registration guidance display unit [See the discussion regarding claim 2 above] requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center [See Figs. 2-3] even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site [See Figs. 4-8]" as claimed.

Claim 7 is rejected on the same basis as claim 4. See the discussions regarding claims 2 and 4 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 8-10 and 13 are rejected on the same basis as claims 2-4 and 7 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 2-4 and 7 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5-6, 11-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klug in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,496,855 to Hunt et al.

Referring to claim 5, Klug discloses an integrated membership management center substantially as claimed. See Figures 1-8 and the corresponding portions of Klug's specification for this disclosure. In particular, Klug teaches an integrated membership management center [Registrar Web Site 100] that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites [Third Party Web Sites 116] and to at least one apparatus [WWW Client Node 108] via a network [WWW 104], the integrated membership management center comprising:

a searching unit [See step 800] searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from an apparatus [See claim 3], wherein the membership information comprises a user ID and a password [See above]; and

a database [144] for registering the new membership information [User Registration Information] when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database [See Fig. 8 and Steps 424-432] allowing a user to use the same user ID and password throughout the service provision sites [See Claim 1 above].

Klug does not expressly state that the new membership information corresponds to an application completed by a user at a service provision site to obtain access to the service provision site as claimed. However, Klug's searching unit is specifically configured for determining if the user's registration information specific to a third party web site is different from / not present in the central database, and for registering this new information in the central database.

Hunt discloses a web registration system and method similar to that of Klug, wherein when a user is already registered at a third party web site ("an application completed by a user at a service provision site to obtain access to the service provision site"), the user's registration information is automatically transferred [See Step 302] to the central registration database [RAS] as claimed. See Figure 5 and the corresponding portion of Hunt's specification for this disclosure.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add Hunt's transfer capabilities to the system and method of Klug, for allowing the user to register at the third party web site and then transferring this new registration information to the central registration database, for example when Klug's search unit determines that registration information for the third party web site is

different from, or not already present in, the central registration database [144] to obtain the invention as claimed. One would have been motivated to do so in order to allow the user to automatically transfer information already registered at a third party site to the central database without having to re-type this information at the central site, as disclosed by Hunt.

Claim 6 is rejected on substantially the same basis as claim 3 above, in light of the basis for claim 5. See the discussions regarding claims 3 and 5 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claims 11-12 are rejected on substantially the same basis as claims 5-6 respectively. See the discussions regarding claims 5-6 above for the details of this disclosure.

Claim 14 is rejected on substantially the same basis as claims 5-6. See the discussions regarding claims 1-6 above for the details of this disclosure.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Referring to applicant's remarks on pages 8-9 regarding the Section 102 rejection of claim 1: Applicant argued that Klug does not disclose a user being able to complete an application at a home page of a third party web site and have the application information transferred to the registration web site and stored.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a user being able to complete an application at a home page of a third party web site and have the application information transferred to the registration web site and stored) are not recited in rejected claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 5-6, 11-12 and 14 have been considered, as they actually do apply to each of these claims, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Goddard whose telephone number is 571-272-4020. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 AM - 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bdg
25 April 2005


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